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**NSC BRIEFING**

**8 March 1955**

**CHINESE OFFSHORE ISLANDS**

**I. Lull in offshore islands has continued since Nanchishan evacuation (25 Feb). ChiComs appear in no hurry to start moves against Matsus and Quemoy.**

**A. ChiNats in process moving full strength div (11,000 troops, 84th Div) from Formosa to Matsus, but ChiComs have made no move to interfere. Have not even reconnoitered islands by air.**

**B. No major naval or air forces moved to areas opposite islands recently. ChiNat air reconnaissance does not indicate speedy reconstruction of airfields in vicinity.**

**II. There are signs ChiComs making steady preparations for future attacks.**

**A. ChiNat garrison on Matsus saw ChiCom convoy of 33 ships, including about 10 landing craft, moving north from waters just north of Matsus on 6 Mar. MAAG thinks this convoy may have brought troops from Chekiang Province. Estimated 125,000 ChiCom troops already in Fukien.**

DIA review(s) completed.

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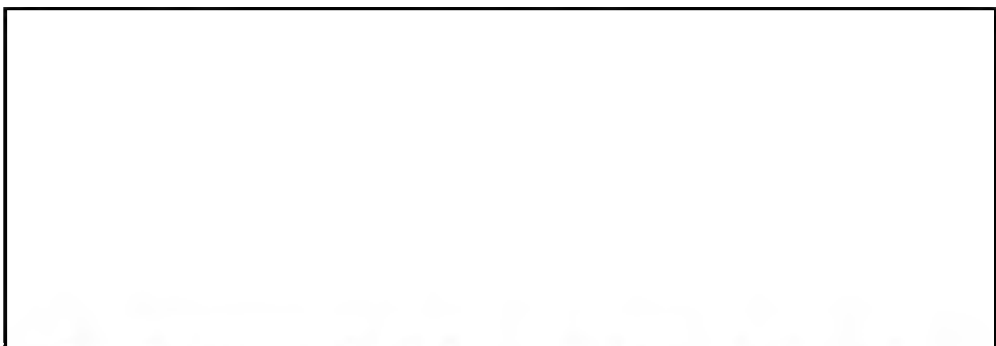
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C. Construction work, presumably related to artillery positions, continues on Peiling Peninsula north of Matsus.

III. Peiping Radio on 4-5 March took note of main points made by SecState Dulles in Taipei previous day.

- A. Commentary observed that US plans "to attack China's mainland" in event of military build-up and that US "seeks to expand its aggression to Quemoy and Matsu Islands."
- B. Commentary concluded that US "must change its aggressive policy, otherwise it cannot escape responsibility for the consequences." This warning is routine, does not change existing national estimates on Communist intentions.

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